

# DELAWAREANS ARE READY FOR A NEW DIRECTION

*Under the leadership of President Bush and his Republican allies in Congress, life has become more difficult for Delawareans. Here are some of the ways that life has become less affordable and secure in Delaware. Democrats are working for real security, better jobs, college access for all, energy independence, affordable health care, and retirement security. It's time for a new direction in Delaware.*

## **INCOME: DELAWAREANS ARE EARNING LESS TODAY THAN THEY WERE FIVE YEARS AGO**

- In 2000, the median income in Delaware was \$55,856.<sup>1</sup>
- In 2005, the median income in Delaware was \$50,445, a significant drop of 9.7 percent.<sup>2</sup>

## **HEALTH CARE: THE NUMBER OF UNINSURED IN DELAWARE HAS GROWN UNDER BUSH REPUBLICANS**

- In 2000, Delaware had 72,000 adults without insurance (9.4 percent).<sup>3</sup>
- In 2005, Delaware had 110,000 adults without insurance (13.0 percent).<sup>4</sup>
- Delaware had 10,354 children benefit from the SCHIP Program.<sup>5</sup>

## **EDUCATION: THE COST OF COLLEGE CONTINUES TO RISE IN DELAWARE**

- In 2001, tuition at a public four-year institution in Delaware was \$10,290.<sup>6</sup> In 2005, it was \$13,353, a 30 percent increase.<sup>7</sup>
- In 2001, tuition at a private four-year institution in Delaware was \$14,041.<sup>8</sup> In 2005, it was \$17,368, a 24 percent increase.<sup>9</sup>
- Number of Delawareans affected by the lapse of the College Tuition Tax Deduction – 11,291<sup>10</sup>
- Number of Delawareans affected by the lapse of the Educator Expenses Tax Deduction – 9,928<sup>11</sup>

## **GAS PRICES: THE HIGH COST OF GAS CONTINUES TO BE A BURDEN FOR DELAWARE RESIDENTS**

- In 2001, the average cost of gas in Delaware was \$1.437 a gallon.<sup>12</sup>
- Today the average cost of gas in Delaware is \$2.302 a gallon.<sup>13</sup>
- In 2001, the average annual cost of gas for a household in Delaware was \$2,099.<sup>14</sup>
- Today the average annual cost of gas for a household in Delaware is \$3,363, \$1,264 (60.2 percent) more than it was in 2001.<sup>15</sup>

## **SOCIAL SECURITY: DELAWAREANS DON'T WANT AN END TO SOCIAL SECURITY**

- Number of Social Security Beneficiaries in Delaware – 148,860<sup>16</sup>
- Average Monthly Benefit per Beneficiary in Delaware – \$926<sup>17</sup>

## **IRAQ, TROOPS AND VETERANS: DELAWAREANS ON THE FRONT LINES**

- Number of Delawareans killed in Iraq – 12<sup>18</sup>
- Number of Delawareans wounded in Iraq – 25<sup>19</sup>
- Number of Delawareans killed in Afghanistan – 1<sup>20</sup>
- Number of Delawareans wounded in Afghanistan – 1<sup>21</sup>
- Number of Veterans in Delaware – 80,751<sup>22</sup>

## **REPUBLICANS CONTINUE TO PUSH FOR GIVEAWAYS FOR A WEALTHY MINORITY WHILE IGNORING DELAWARE'S MINIMUM WAGE WORKERS**

- Only 174 estates in Delaware paid an Estate Tax in 2004.<sup>23</sup>
- Only 25 estates in Delaware will benefit from the Estate Tax cut in 2009.<sup>24</sup>

## **TAX CUTS: BUSH TAX POLICIES BENEFIT THE WEALTHIEST DELAWAREANS**

### **The Bush tax cuts have overwhelmingly benefited the wealthiest Delawareans.**

- In 2001, the richest one percent of Delaware residents each received an average of \$2,876 in tax cuts, while middle class Delaware residents received only \$368.<sup>25</sup>
- In 2006, the richest one percent of Delaware residents will receive an average of \$42,909 in tax cuts, while middle class Delawareans residents will only receive \$648.<sup>26</sup>
- In 2010, under the Bush tax plan, the richest one percent of Delaware residents will each receive an average of \$80,638 in tax cuts, while middle class Delaware residents will only receive \$770.<sup>27</sup>

### **The richest Delawareans receive an ever-growing share of the Bush tax cut.**

- In 2001, the richest Delawareans received 6.7 percent of the Bush tax cut, while the middle class received 16.7 percent of the tax cut.<sup>28</sup>
- But, in 2006, the richest Delawareans will get 27.6 percent of the Bush tax cut, while the middle class will get 8.2 percent of the tax cut.<sup>29</sup>
- And, in 2010, the richest Delawareans will get 46.3 percent of the Bush tax cut, while the middle class will get 8.7 percent of the tax cut.<sup>30</sup>

### **Bush capital gains and dividend tax cuts overwhelmingly benefit the wealthiest Delawareans.**

- In 2010, the richest Delawareans will receive an average of \$15,409 from the Bush capital gains and dividend tax cuts. That means the richest Delawareans will be getting over 48.8 percent of all of the tax cut benefit.<sup>31</sup>
- In contrast, in 2010, middle class Delawareans will receive an average of \$23 from the Bush capital gains and dividend tax cuts. That's just 1.5 percent of the benefit going to the middle class.<sup>32</sup>

## SOURCES

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